


III. Remarks:

In the final Office action dated January 7, 2004, claims 15, 16 and 37 were indicated as allowed and the remaining pending claims 1, 6, 8-13, 27, 28, 31, 33 and 35 were rejected. As indicated above, rejected claims 1, 6, 8-13, 27, 28, 31, 33 and 35 have been canceled. In addition, the Examiner has noted that action should be taken with respect to the non-elected claims (17-26 and 38-48) in order for this paper to constitute a complete reply to the final rejection. As reflected above in the Listing of Claims, claims 17-26 and 38-48 have now been canceled.

Dependent claims 49-58 have been added to further define allowed claim 15 and dependent claim 59 has been added to further define allowed claim 37. Accordingly, new dependent claims 49-59 are in condition for allowance as well.

Applicant requests entry of this amendment and an early formal notice of allowance. Should the Examiner deem that any further amendment is desirable to place this application in condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the below listed telephone number.

Respectfully submitted,


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